

Q. On Page 11, sec.1.9 requires a 100% performance bond, you state “The Labor and Materials payment and faithful performance bond shall be effective from the beginning of the project until the County has acknowledged satisfactory performance.” Can you give more detail when and how the County will acknowledge “satisfactory performance?” Will the amount of the performance bond be reduced as equipment is delivered and accepted? When will the end date of the performance bond occur?

A. This will be put into writing and posted on the Web site

Q. Page 13, sec. 1.12 discusses taxes. It is stated, “Unless otherwise specified in this solicitation document, the proposer shall include and be responsible for paying all taxes, which shall be applicable to the sale of the proposed goods and services.” Can you please state the different taxes and the rates for inclusion in the pricing?

A. This refers to state taxes that are applicable to the State of California, with Orange County’s local taxes included (7.75%). We would like the tax amount to be listed as a separate line item.

Q. On Page 20, sec.2.1.2, it states that election materials are printed in English, Spanish and Vietnamese with the possible inclusion of other languages...” What are the other languages?

A. The other languages are Korean and Chinese.

Q. Sec. 2.1.5 discusses the Voting Warehouse. Can we get a blueprint of this warehouse with dimensions and ceiling heights? Can a warehouse tour be arranged?

A. Warehouse tours can be arranged. (One was arranged at the conclusion of the pre-bid meeting.) The height is 18 feet (17 feet and a few inches to the beams). The RFP shows some of the areas in the warehouse. There is a reasonably large card counting room. We anticipate we can go with substantially less space than that. There is a false ceiling in that area as well. However, if your response requires more space, it must cost out punching out the walls.

Q. Page 23, Sec. 2.1.6 states, “The new voting system may be piloted for upcoming elections...” What is the election schedule for 2003 or elections that might be used as pilot elections?

A. There will probably be a special district election in 2003. Likely it will be in the January time frame. There are no scheduled odd year November elections scheduled.

When we get into the negotiation phase, we will know about the special. We would like to use the optical scan element at minimum. If possible, we would like to use the full DRE system.

Q. Regarding Sec. 3.1.4.3.5, can the County provide us with some information regarding its staff – number, organization, department breakdown, etc? This will assist us in providing the details for training and vendor support staff.

A. There are 47 full-time staff. The contractor will be working with 8 in the precinct/field area, who work with polling place and precinct workers. There are 2 full time people in the warehouse, 2 assistant ROV's, 4 IT folks, 6 in the front office, who primarily work with absentee voters, the Deputy ROV and the ROV.

Q. Page 68, Sec. 4.3.5 is cut off. Will the vendor actually be conducting each poll worker training session or will the vendor be training the trainer? If the vendor is expected to do the actual training, how many training sessions are expected over what period of time? How many elections will the vendor be required to perform this task if the vendor is the actual trainer?

A. We will post the full answer on the Web site. At minimum, we will be expecting you to train the trainers. In addition, you will train some poll workers. Your responsibility will likely be for the two elections in 2004 (primary and general).

Q. Page 73, Sec. 4.4.1.1.1.8 states that the system shall accommodate an expanded ballot to meet space for an unlimited number of candidates and measures in the future. "Unlimited" is a very subjective term. Can the County be more specific?

A. This is a memory issue. You need to tell us what the memory capacity is for your systems. There is a requirement that all DRE's print an actual ballot. With 5 languages, you are looking at 3000-5000 ballot styles.

For November (2002), we already have 40 statewide ballot styles. Add a couple of hundred for special districts and municipalities.

Q. Regarding Sec. 4.4.1.1.25, what is the number of days before the election that the election and ballot information are available for the starting the election preparation?

A. E minus 65 is when we lock in what's on the ballot. We have the two requirements of sample ballot pamphlets and absentees, which are mailed on E minus 29, but labeled between E minus 60 to 50, which drive these needs.

Q. Page 81 Sec. 4.4.1.4.1 states "no publication of the actual vote count is allowed at the polling place." Yet section 4.4.3.7 states that a printed record is required for each machine and then to be signed by election officers. Can the printed record security be handled procedurally? Does the County want printers on the units at all?

A. We have to have something that verifies that we have a zero count in the morning. As far as being able to print, we want the ability to do everything at the polling place that we can do centrally. We do not intend to print anything at the polling place level in the short term, however.

NOTE: In a later, similar question it was stated that bidders should make the printing capability an "or" issue. That means it should be bid as an "added" capability. However, we still need to have the ability to certify that the machine is "zeroed."

Q. Regarding Page 101, Sec. 4.4.4.5, does the County provide the forklift or should it be part of the implementation price? If you already have the forklift, can you provide model, make, age and height limitation and fork length?

A. Our forklift may not meet the parameters of your equipment. We highly recommend that a forklift that is optimized for your system be included as part of the proposal.

Q. Page 104, Sec. 4.4.5.2 discusses Regional Collection Centers. Is it the intent to use the 23 sites? Will each have cartridge-reading equipment? Are these sites on the county network? Will some sites be only for collection of cartridges and delivered to other counting sites?

A. All sites are for collection only. The systems should have the expandability/flexibility that should we decide to do that in the future, we can. You are NOT expected the cost of future capability in the proposal, but we expect your system to be able to accommodate this.

Q. Regarding Page 91, Sec. 4.4.1.3.5, does the County expect the vendor to provide a copy of the source code?

A. In escrow with us.

Q. What are the required delivery/initial acceptance test dates?

A. This will be finalized in negotiations. We anticipate that right after signature, we will be looking to run an election in early 2003. We are aiming to be complete by mid 2003.

Q. How many early voting sites are contemplated in addition to the Registrar's office?

A. 35-60. We expect to be in 34 cities, working with the City Clerks, and using other sites, such as malls and special gathering places.

Q. How do the data vote cards get distributed to the precincts now?

A. The inspector (poll worker) picks them up.

Q. Does the County prefer for the poll worker to pick up equipment or is a shipping team needed?

A. We much prefer that the inspector picks it up. However, weight might be an issue. It will become part of the criteria for review.

Q. Sections 1.10.1 and 1.10.4 refer to separate technical and cost proposals, yet 3.1.1 includes them in one document. Which is correct?

A. We will post the answer on the Web site.

Q. In Sec. 4.4.4.12 (page 103) re: disposal of existing voting equipment...what equipment will be included and the quantities of each?

A. We have 32-34 card readers and 13,000 punch machines that we would ask you to dispose for us.

Q. Is it the intent for there to be a "Best and Final Offer" process between selected vendors?

A. Yes, between the finalists.

Q. Are the people who helped prepare the RFP precluded from bidding on the project?

A. Yes. The Consultant is not part of the bidding, nor do they have any relation to any of the bidders.